

2014

M I C H I G A N

SPRING TURKEY

DIGEST

Application Period: Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, 2014

Major Changes

- **NEW!** Beginning Mar. 1, a base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their spring turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year.
- **NEW!** Hunt 0234 has changed, see pg.12 for details.

Drawing results posted Mar. 3

Visit www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings



RAP (Report All Poaching): 800-292-7800

Visit us online at www.michigan.gov/turkey

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit michigan.gov/nrc.

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NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws

MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY DIGEST

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For 2014 wild turkey cooperator patch information, see pg. 17.

Mentoring: See the Difference It Makes

The spring wild turkey season offers the perfect setting for experienced turkey hunters to share their knowledge and skills with other hunters or introduce the sport to new hunters. Turkey hunting is a challenging, interactive activity that is best shared with others. Learning the habits and behaviors of wild turkeys, scouting, practicing calling, etc., can be more rewarding when two or more people work together as a team. Hunters who fill their tag can get that same enjoyment and satisfaction by helping a youngster or apprentice hunter with his or her first turkey hunting experience. Be a mentor.... make a difference!

Wild Turkeys Make History

For the first time in history, wild turkeys can be found in parts of every county in Michigan's Lower Peninsula plus areas of the Upper Peninsula. The expansion of wild turkeys in Michigan did not happen overnight, but has unfolded over the last half-century. As the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) moves from restoration management to adaptive management, there is a need to establish realistic expectations for the next decade.

Wild turkeys were a common element in Michigan prior to the arrival of European settlers. In fact, wild turkeys have been in North America for a long time. Turkey bones dating back 50,000 years have been found in caves in the eastern United States. During the pre-Columbian times of Michigan's history, it is estimated that more than 94,000 wild turkeys roamed the state. The wild turkey is native solely to the New World, indigenous to the wilds of this continent, and is the ancestor of all domestic turkeys worldwide.

The comeback of the wild turkey is one of the greatest wildlife conservation stories in America's history. Today, there are more than 7 million wild turkeys in the United States; however, there was a time when the sighting of a wild turkey in this country was rare.

Recovery Begins

With the wild turkey gone from every county in Michigan, conservationists set out to re-establish the bird, but their efforts met with limited success. In 1905, Cleveland Cliffs Mining Company released turkeys on Grand Island, off Munising in Lake Superior, but the birds didn't survive. The earliest documented attempt by the DNR to reestablish turkeys in Michigan was in 1919 and again in 1920. In those two years, 65 hand-reared wild turkeys were released at the Sanford Game Refuge. Birds and "turkey sign" were seen in the vicinity until 1925, but the refuge manager reported that the birds were "popped-off" by violators. More unsuccessful releases were made through the late 1930s in southern Michigan. In 1937, a national coalition of conservationists, virtually all of them hunters, backed by the sporting arms and ammunition industries, persuaded Congress

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



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to direct the receipts from an excise tax on those items into a special fund to be distributed to the State for wildlife restoration. Had it not been for this key legislation, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937), wild turkeys and a variety of other wildlife would have been reduced to nothing more than part of local lore and national legend. With this type of nationwide support, there was increased interest in wild turkey restoration.

Hope for turkeys in Michigan was again stimulated in the early 1950's after word of Pennsylvania's successful restoration of the species. Michigan wildlife biologists analyzed Pennsylvania's wild turkey management program and studied areas in Michigan for similar habitat and land use patterns. The Allegan State Game Area, consisting of approximately 40,000 acres located within 100,000 acres of hardwood and pine forest, was recommended as what was then thought to be the only suitable habitat remaining in the original Michigan turkey range.

In the spring of 1954, the Department of Natural Resources purchased 50 turkeys and 400 eggs from the Pennsylvania Allegheny Wild Turkey Farm at. The 50 birds were released at six sites in the Allegan State Game Area, and the eggs were incubated at the Mason State Game Farm. Not all birds and eggs survived, so additional restoration attempts continued. By 1964, approximately 2,000 free-ranging birds had become established in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

During the late 1950's, the rocket net was adapted for use on turkeys from similar nets used in Europe to capture waterfowl. This new wildlife capture technique revolutionized the ability of resource managers to live trap wild turkeys for restoration efforts. Since the use of rocket nets in Michigan began, wild turkey live trapping and translocation has been part of Michigan's management program. In 1983, the DNR, working together with many partners, acquired wild turkeys from Iowa and Missouri for translocation to southern Michigan. Since 1983, numerous releases of wild trapped birds from other states and newly restored southern Michigan sites have occurred and the population has expanded to historic levels.



Hunting Returns

Turkey hunting returned to Michigan in 1965 with a fall season occurring in the Allegan area. Since 1968, spring seasons have been the primary hunt times. In 1977, there were 5,000 square miles open for spring hunting in the Mio, Baldwin, and Allegan hunting units. By 1991, wild turkeys encompassed about 22,000 square miles of spring hunting area in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan. Truly, the wild turkey population range had expanded dramatically. Today, turkeys inhabit most counties, and there are more areas open to spring hunting than at any time in the history of Michigan. In 1977, a hunter's chances of drawing a license to hunt were about 25 percent. Today, all individuals are guaranteed an opportunity to buy a spring turkey hunting license. In 1977, hunter success was below 10 percent. Today, hunters experience about 30 percent hunter success regardless of whether they hunt the first hunt period or the last period. In 1977, hunters harvested 400 turkeys. Today, over 30,000 turkeys are taken by successful hunters. Michigan is ranked seventh in the Nation for turkey harvest trailing Missouri, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York, and Mississippi.

Finding a Good Place to Live

Eastern wild turkeys are usually described as permanent residents of mature woodlands; yet, they have adapted to a variety of forest types and cover throughout their range in the Midwest. Trees, shrubs, and grass in close proximity to each other are the key ingredients of good turkey habitat. Trees supply fruits, nuts, catkins, and buds for food, and nighttime roosting sites where turkeys can escape from ground-dwelling predators. Mast-producing trees such as oaks and beeches are especially important food producers. Fruit-producing shrubs also provide important fall and winter food. Grassy openings supply an abundance of insects, seeds, and other foods for adults and especially for poults. Turkeys' annual home range is roughly two square miles. For help in managing your land for turkeys, visit www.michigan.gov/landownersguide.

Managing These Amazing Birds

Managing wild turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations, their habitat and their relationship to people. Hunting plays an important role in managing turkeys by regulating their numbers. The goal of the spring wild turkey hunting season is to maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a satisfactory hunting experience. Limited to bearded turkeys only, this conservative harvest approach has allowed the continued growth and expansion of the wild turkey population in Michigan. Wild turkey hunting in the fall enables the DNR to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on habitat conditions and public attitudes. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season.



Planting crabapples is a great way to create turkey habitat.

How YOU Can Help

What does the future hold for wild turkeys? To protect the wild turkey resource that Michigan citizens consider such a valuable renewable asset, it is critical to not become complacent with past successes. Conservation organizations, interested individuals, and resource managers need to continue to work together to inform the public about the intricacies of natural processes. Other ways to help:

- Educate the public about natural phenomena such as plant succession, population dynamics, and predator-prey relationships.
- Understand the potential impact of avian diseases like histomoniasis, avian pox, and mycoplasma on wild turkey populations in association with wildlife feeding.
- Develop and promote ethics and good sportsmanship in wild turkey hunting.
- Stop the illegal killing of turkeys. Report all poaching at 800-292-7800.
- Support hunter education. Enroll a new hunter in a hunter education program today. Be a mentor!
- Become involved with land use and urbanization issues that have a negative impact on wild turkeys.
- Protect and manage suitable wild turkey habitat to ensure continued success.

Report January Sightings of Wild Turkey

Hunters can assist the DNR by reporting any sightings of wild turkeys during January. This information, which is kept confidential, is used to manage the turkey resource. You can make your report online at www.michigan.gov/turkey or you can contact a DNR office listed on the back of this digest.

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or diseased wildlife, including wild turkeys. Information about the location, number of animals, and animal condition should be provided to the Wildlife Health Disease Laboratory. You can report your information online at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases, then scroll down to the "Seasonal Information" section and click on the "Report Diseased Wildlife" link. Or, you can call the Wildlife Health Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030.



The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 created a funding mechanism for state wildlife agencies to restore and manage their wildlife resources. A federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and apportioned to states through a formula based on the number of licensed hunters and the size of each state.

Eligible states are those that have passed laws preventing the use of hunting license fees for any purpose other than managing the state's wildlife. The federal excise tax, along with hunter license fees, are used to acquire lands; protect, restore and manage wildlife habitats; manage wildlife populations; conduct wildlife research and surveys; provide hunter access; and develop, operate and maintain facilities and infrastructure necessary to manage wildlife resources. Additionally, a specific portion of the federal excise tax is dedicated for hunter education, and for developing and managing shooting ranges. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration Funds has reached over \$275 million.

2014 Hunting Information

From Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, hunters may apply for one limited-quota license, for a specific spring turkey hunt unit and season dates. Application fee is \$4. Applicants selected in the drawing may then purchase a limited-quota license (see License Cost table on pg. 13) online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings or at a license agent. After the drawing, any leftover licenses will be sold until quotas are met. Depending on how many hunters apply, leftover licenses may or may not be available for some hunt units and/or dates.

Hunters who do not apply for the drawing may purchase a leftover license, if available, beginning Mar. 17 (see pg. 12 for Hunt 0234 information). The \$4 application fee will not be charged (only applies to drawing participants).

It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license.

Application Information

- You may apply for the license drawing at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. It costs \$4 to apply.
- You will need one of the following forms of customer identification:
 - Valid Michigan driver's license
 - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
 - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings).
- **NEW!** Beginning Mar. 1, a base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their spring turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license. For base license costs, see pg. 13.
- You must be at least 10 years of age by the time a spring turkey license is purchased, unless purchasing a mentored youth hunting license.
- You may **apply only once**.
- You may apply in a partnership with **one** other person. The first applicant of each partnership chooses a hunt unit(s) and receives a "party ID" number, which is printed on his or her receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. The other partner will need this party ID number when applying to complete the partnership. **Make sure the party ID numbers are identical. Applicants who apply with more than one partner will be ineligible for the drawing.**
- You are responsible for obtaining a DNR application receipt that states your customer ID and hunt choice. Check this receipt for accuracy and retain as proof that you applied. **Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline.** Do not accept a receipt that is not legible.

- Applicants who submit an invalid application will be ineligible for the drawing.
- You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online.
- For application assistance, call (517) 284-WILD (9453).

IMPORTANT: It is your responsibility to check your application receipt for accuracy.

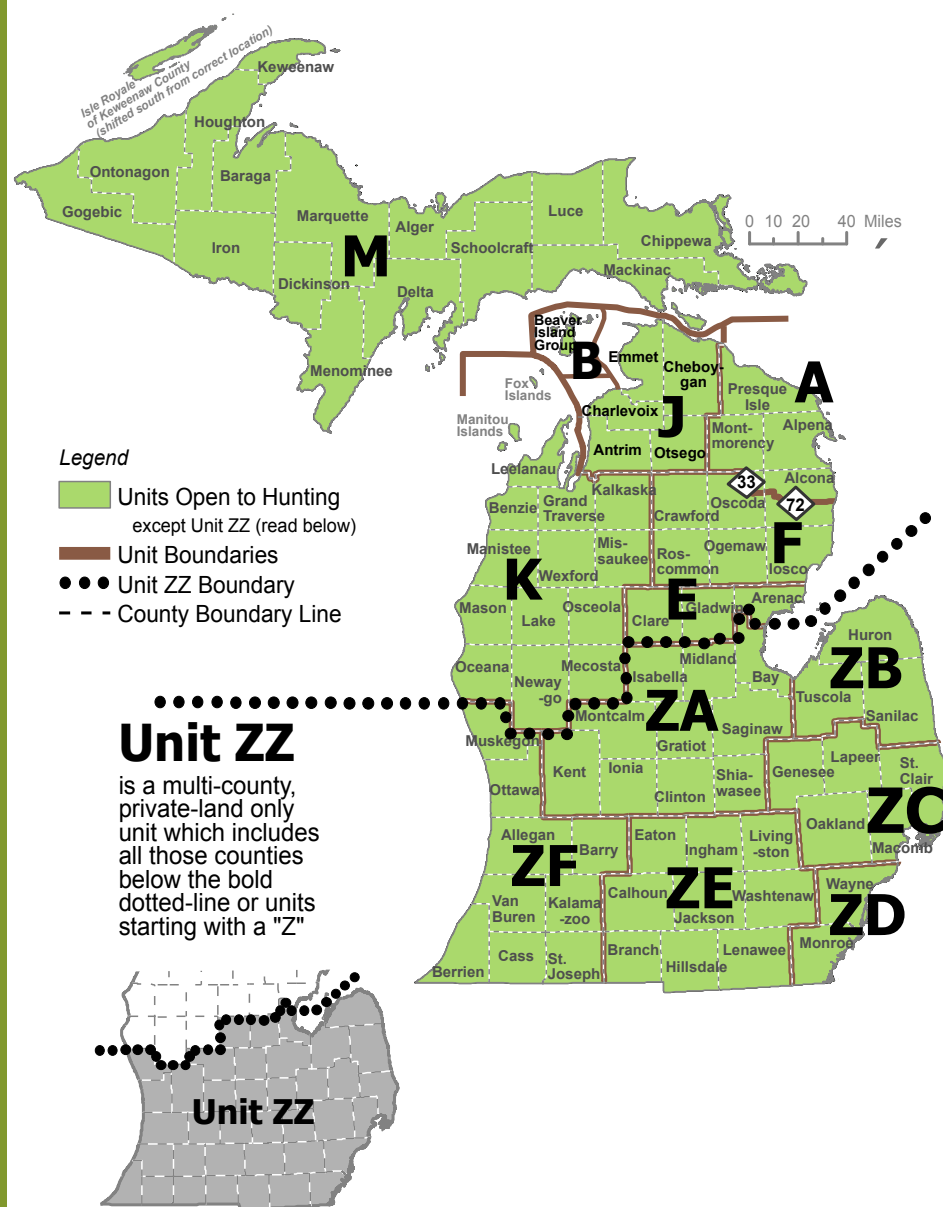
Drawings results will be posted at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings on Mar. 3.

How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

1. Look at the map on pg. 10 and choose a hunt unit.
2. Look at the tables on pgs. 11-12 to find the corresponding hunt number for the hunt unit you chose. You may choose to apply for two hunt numbers; one as your first hunt choice and the other as your second hunt choice.
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number(s) you chose at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. (It is unlawful to apply more than once).
4. Check your receipt for accuracy, and retain as proof of application.



2014 Spring Turkey Hunt Units



Limited-License Hunt Units

General Licenses

The general licenses listed below are valid on all public and private land within the unit.

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA**	HUNT NUMBERS
A	Apr. 21 - May 4	5,500	0101
B	Apr. 21 - May 4	1,000	0102
E	Apr. 21-27	850	0103
E	Apr. 28 - May 4	850	0104
F	Apr. 21-27	2,500	0105
F	Apr. 28 - May 4	2,500	0106
J	Apr. 21 - May 4	4,000	0107
K	Apr. 21-27	4,000	0108
K	Apr. 28 - May 4	4,500	0109
M	Apr. 21 - May 31	6,000	0110
ZA	Apr. 21-27	1,200	0111
ZA	Apr. 28 - May 4	1,200	0112
ZA	May 5-11	1,200	0113
ZA	May 12-31	1,200	0114
ZB	Apr. 21-27	650	0115
ZB	Apr. 28 - May 4	650	0116
ZB	May 5-11	650	0117
ZB	May 12-31	650	0118
ZC	Apr. 21-27	600	0119
ZC	Apr. 28 - May 4	600	0120
ZC	May 5-11	600	0121
ZC	May 12-31	600	0122
ZD	Apr. 21-27	10	0123
ZD	Apr. 28 - May 4	10	0124
ZD	May 5-11	10	0125
ZD	May 12-31	10	0126
ZE	Apr. 21-27	500	0127
ZE	Apr. 28 - May 4	500	0128
ZE	May 5-11	500	0129
ZE	May 12-31	500	0130
ZF	Apr. 21-27	1,300	0131
ZF	Apr. 28 - May 4	1,300	0132
ZF	May 5-31	3,000	0133

** Quotas may be adjusted based on wild turkey hunter and population surveys.

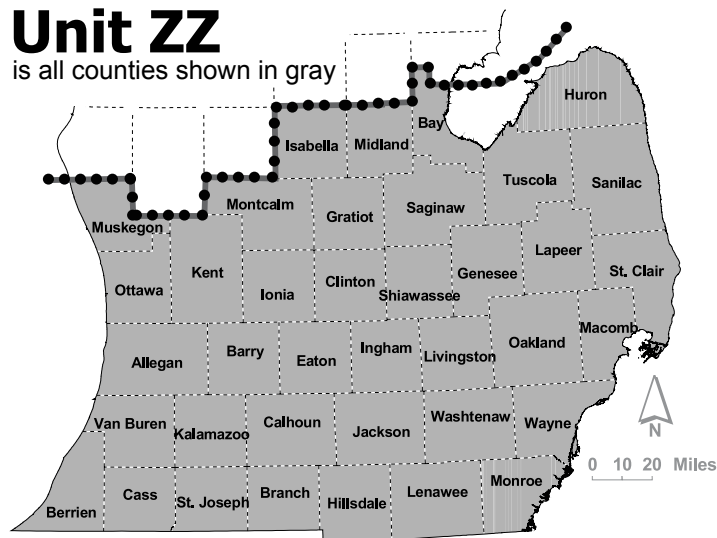
Private-Land-Only Licenses

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA	HUNT NUMBER
ZZ	Apr. 21 - May 5	65,000	0301

The private-land-only licenses are not valid on county, state or federal lands, except Hunt 0301 (Unit ZZ) may be used to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission. You are encouraged to have permission to hunt private lands before applying for one of these licenses.

Unit ZZ

is all counties shown in gray



Guaranteed-License Hunt Unit

Hunt 234

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA	HUNT NUMBER
All Open Units*	May 5-31	No Quota	0234

*Hunt 0234 is a statewide hunting license valid for all open areas, **except public lands in Unit ZZ** (southern Lower Peninsula). This license is valid to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission.

NEW! Hunt 0234 license will be sold as a leftover license with no quota and can be purchased throughout the entire spring turkey hunting season. See Leftover Licenses on following page.

Leftover Licenses

There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit, except Hunt 0234. If any licenses remain after the drawing, unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license online or from any license agent on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week period beginning Mar. 10 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any limited-quota licenses that remain as of Mar. 17 at 10 a.m. EST may be purchased by any hunter, including those who did not apply for a spring turkey license. These licenses will be sold until quotas are met. It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license.

License Purchase

- If you are selected in the drawing or wish to purchase a leftover license, including a Hunt 0234 license, you may purchase your hunting license online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings or from any license agent.
- Make sure the information on your license is accurate.
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred.

It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license. When hunting, you must carry your spring turkey license and the identification used to purchase that license and present both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer. A base license is required for every resident and non-resident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their spring turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license.

Type of License	Cost
Application for License Drawing	\$ 4.00
Base License Resident	\$ 11.00
Base License Junior	\$ 6.00
Base License Senior	\$ 5.00
Base License Nonresident*	\$ 151.00
Turkey Spring License	\$15.00
Turkey Spring Senior License	\$ 6.00
Mentored Youth License	\$ 7.50

*Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase a resident base license.

Leftover spring turkey licenses are available to residents who are active-duty military and qualifying disabled veterans, beginning Mar. 17, free of charge.

If you have any license questions, please call (517) 373-1204.

Apprentice Hunting License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "Accompanied by" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

For hunting wild turkey, the accompanying hunter needs a 2014 turkey hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same hunt unit and season date as the apprentice. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters.

Mentored Youth Hunting Program

Youth hunters 9 years of age and younger may hunt deer, turkey, and small game, trap furbearers, and fish for all species with a licensed mentor. The mentor must be at least 21 years of age and hunter safety-certified. The mentored youth license is a "package" license that includes a base license and entitles the youth to hunt, trap and fish for the species listed above during all open seasons for the species. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found in the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest, or online at www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting.

A spring turkey kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license is valid for one turkey during any hunt period, in any open hunt unit, on private or public land. No application is required for the mentored youth license.

Special Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Hunters with Disabilities

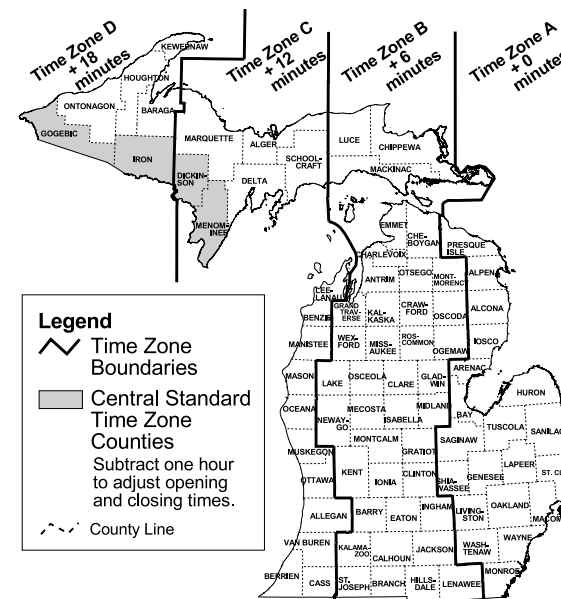
The Fort Custer Training Center near Battle Creek offers turkey hunting opportunities for properly licensed youth (Hunt 0301). A mentor is available for each participant. Free housing is available, along with range time. Special hunting opportunities are also available for properly licensed hunters with a disability during May (Hunt 234). For hunt dates and more information, please visit www.fortcusterhunt.org or call (269) 731-6570.

Active-Duty Military Personnel and Veterans with Disabilities

Leftover spring turkey licenses are available to active-duty military and qualifying disabled veterans, beginning Mar. 17, free of charge. Spring turkey licenses that were applied for by active-duty military and disabled veterans come at regular resident price.

Hunting Hours

Actual legal hunting hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset) for Zone A are printed in the table. To determine the opening (a.m.) or closing (p.m.) time in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for the zone to the time from the Zone A Hunting Hours Table. The hunting hour listed in the table reflects EST adjusted for daylight-saving time where appropriate. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.



Zone A Hunting Hours Table

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time)

2014	April		May	
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1			5:58	8:02
2			5:56	8:03
3			5:55	8:04
4			5:54	8:05
5			5:52	8:06
6			5:51	8:08
7			5:50	8:09
8			5:49	8:10
9			5:47	8:11
10			5:46	8:12
11			5:45	8:13
12			5:44	8:14
13			5:43	8:15
14			5:42	8:16
15			5:41	8:17
16			5:40	8:18
17			5:39	8:19
18			5:38	8:20
19			5:37	8:21
20			5:36	8:22
21	6:12	7:51	5:35	8:23
22	6:11	7:52	5:35	8:24
23	6:09	7:53	5:34	8:25
24	6:08	7:54	5:33	8:26
25	6:06	7:55	5:32	8:27
26	6:05	7:56	5:32	8:28
27	6:03	7:58	5:31	8:29
28	6:02	7:59	5:30	8:29
29	6:00	8:00	5:30	8:30
30	5:59	8:01	5:29	8:31
31			5:29	8:32

Bag Limit

One bearded turkey per licensed hunter. It is unlawful to take or possess a turkey that does not have a beard, or tag a bird you did not kill. Turkeys may not be taken while they are in a tree.

Hunting Methods

Turkey hunters may use a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a firearm that fires a fixed shotgun shell, or a muzzleloading shotgun. For taking a turkey, crossbow hunters may only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide. It is illegal to use or carry afield any other firearm. The prohibition on carrying any other type of firearm does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license, or under a specific exception from the CPL requirement. When taking wild turkey, a person shall not use or carry afield any ammunition except shotgun shells loaded with no. 4 or smaller shot or no. 4 or smaller loose shot for use in muzzleloading shotguns. You may hunt turkeys from an elevated stand or tree using a bow and arrow or crossbow. Crossbow hunters must have a crossbow stamp, available free of charge from any license agent or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. The use or possession of electronic devices that imitate wild turkey calls is illegal.

Baiting Prohibited

It is unlawful to use bait to aid in the taking of a wild turkey. For the purpose of this regulation, "bait" means a substance composed of grain, fruit, vegetables or other food placed to lure or entice wild turkeys. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

Decoys

Mechanical, electronic or live decoys are prohibited. Mechanical decoy means any device that by design or construction uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey. A wind sock or similar decoy body anchored at a fixed point into the ground and whose only motion is derived exclusively by power of the natural wind is legal.

Validating Kills

Immediately upon killing a turkey, a person shall validate his or her license by notching out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and securely attaching the license around a leg of the bird. A person shall not transport or have in his or her possession a turkey unless the validated license is attached to a leg of the bird.

Using Spur Length to Age a Turkey

Spur Length (in.)	Curvature	Sharpness	Age of Gobbler
Less than 0.5"	None	Rounded	Less than 1 year
0.5" to 1"	Straight	Blunt	1 to 2 years
1" to 1.25"	Slightly Curved	Pointed	2 to 3 years
Over 1.25"	Curved	Sharp	Older than 3 years

Turkey Hunting Reporting Option

Turkey hunters, we need your help. After your hunting season has ended, please report your hunting activity on the Internet by visiting www.michigan.gov/turkey. Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.

Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch

Michigan's wild turkey patch program is coordinated by the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the DNR. Young hunters, 10-17 years of age, who have a valid wild turkey hunting license may receive a free patch. To receive a patch, please send name and complete address, along with a legible copy of the youth's valid wild turkey hunting license, to National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Patch Program, P.O. Box 8, Orleans, MI 48865. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. If you have questions, please e-mail michiganwildturkeypatch@yahoo.com.

Adult hunters, collectors, and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for \$5, including postage and handling. Only the current-year patch is available for purchase. You do not have to harvest a turkey to purchase a patch. Send orders to the address above, and please make your check or money order payable to the National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTF is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the American wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. Proceeds from patch sales are used to fund wild turkey-related projects and management in Michigan. Each year the NWTF, working cooperatively with the DNR, contributes more than \$300,000 to wild turkey and hunter-heritage programs in Michigan.



Dioxin Advisory Information

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources determined that samples of wild game from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contained high levels of dioxin and dioxinlike compounds. Wild game tested include deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. As a result, the MDCH advises that hunters and their families follow these recommendations related to turkey:

- Do not eat turkey harvested in or near the floodplain of the Tittabawassee River downstream of Midland. If you choose to eat turkey taken from this area anyway, at a minimum the skin, liver, and gizzard should be removed and discarded.
- Other wild game that have not been tested in this area may also contain dioxins at levels that are a concern. To reduce general dioxin exposure from other wild game, trim any visible fat from the meat before cooking. Do not consume organ meats such as the liver or brains, and do not eat the skin.

For additional information regarding dioxin, dioxin-like compounds and wild game advisories for the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River floodplains, including a map of the area covered by these advisories, go to the MDCH website at www.michigan.gov/dioxin.

Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

All commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission or contact a DNR Customer Service Center for more information. Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF 231-775-5023; Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Poachers Beware: Hunters are Watching

Violations of turkey hunting regulations, including application violations, are misdemeanors. Misdemeanors may be punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment, up to \$1,000 fines, and license revocation for up to three years. Reimbursement to the state for unlawful taking of wild turkey is \$1,000 per animal.

2014 Spring Turkey Workshops

The DNR, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association (MWTHA), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), and other groups are offering wild turkey hunter orientation courses. A fee may be charged, and space may be limited. For details contact:

Workshop Information and Contacts	
Mar. 22	DeVos Place, <i>Grand Rapids</i> Ultimate Sports Show - Grand Valley Chapter, NWTf Joe Macomber, (616) 538-2862
Mar. 29	Baldwin High School, <i>Baldwin</i> 33rd Wild Turkey Hunters Rendezvous - Pere Marquette Chapter, MWTHA Jim Maturen, (231) 832-2575
Mar. 29	Charlotte Fairgrounds, <i>Charlotte</i> Eaton County Strutting Toms, NWTf Theo Savage, (517) 649-8580
Mar. 29	D & R Sports, <i>Kalamazoo</i> Southwestern Michigan Longbeards Chapter, NWTf Gary VanDyke, (269) 649-0384
Apr. 5	Cabela's, <i>Dundee</i> (1 p.m.) River Raisin Chapter, NWTf Chad Andrus, (734) 529-4715, chad.andrus@cabelas.com
Apr. 5	Williams Gun Sight Co., <i>Davison</i> Flint River Chapter, NWTf Jim Miller, (810) 513-9820, jmmturkey@att.net
Apr. 6	Detroit Sportsmen's Congress, <i>Utica</i> Hunting and Patterning Workshop (1 p.m.) Oakland County Beard and Spurs Chapter, NWTf Dan Potter, (248) 548-2036
Apr. 19	Fort Custer Recreation Area, <i>Battle Creek</i> (11 a.m.) Turkeyville Toms Chapter, NWTf Sam Giese, (269) 968-0066, fourhuntrs@aol.com



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Need information?

Contact a Customer Service Center listed below, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit us online.

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427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City

3580 State Park Drive
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Gaylord

1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Marquette

1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Newberry

5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Plainwell

621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon

I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Rose Lake*

8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-641-4903

(*This is a field office)

Southfield

26000 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48034
248-359-9040

Helpful URLs:

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Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr and click on the red envelope.

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting and Trapping: www.michigan.gov/hunting

Pure Michigan Hunt: www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt

DNR Digests and Guides: www.michigan.gov/dnrdigests

Wild Turkeys: www.michigan.gov/turkey

Deer: www.michigan.gov/deer

Black Bear: www.michigan.gov/bear

Wolf: www.michigan.gov/wolves

Elk: www.michigan.gov/elk

Ducks and Geese: www.michigan.gov/waterfowl

Michigan Waterfowl Legacy: www.michigan.gov/mwl

Information and "How To" of Trapping and Fur Harvesting: www.michigan.gov/trapping

Mi-HUNT: www.michigan.gov/mihunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders

Public Hunting on Private Lands: www.michigan.gov/hap

Invasive Species: www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies

Shooting Ranges: www.michigan.gov/shootingranges

Emerging Diseases: www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan Street

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

(517) 284-WILD (9453)